

REMARKS

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants respectfully draw the Examiner's attention to the Supplemental Information Disclosure statement filed herewith.

Claim Status & Claim Rejections

Claims 18-25 are cancelled without prejudice, and new claims 28-35 are added to claim the invention in alternative language. Claims 1-17 and 26-35 are pending in this application after entry of the present amendment. The allowability of claims 1-17, 26 and 27 is acknowledged. All claims are thought to be allowable over the cited art.

Claims 18, 19-25 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over admitted prior art. The rejection is respectfully traversed because *prima facie* obviousness is not established. However, the rejection is now moot, because the claims have been canceled for purposes of expediting prosecution.

Conclusion

Reconsideration and a notice of allowance are respectfully requested in view of the Remarks presented above. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, a telephone call to the undersigned is invited.

Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patent, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 8, 2004.

Julie Matthews
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Signature